Development of Forests in Assam

5056. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Government has sent any scheme/proposal pertaining to development of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of financial assistance provided by the Central Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam has prepared a comprehensive plan of 20 years as State Forestry Action Programme (SFAP) for sustainable development of forests in the State. During this period, besides developing and strengthening the institutions. State has proposed a programme for regeneration of 0.92 million-hectare natural forests and plantation on 0.18 million-hectare non-forest lands. Total financial requirement for these programmes of 20 years is Rs. 2072.04 crores. The current level of financial investments in forestry sector of the State is much less than the required in this comprehensive plan.

(c) The Central Government have forwarded a project of Assam of Rs. 685.03 crores for a period of 10 years to the World Bank in October, 1999. The Ministry has taken up with the Planning Commission for enhancing the outlay to forestry sector and requested States to mobilise funds from all possible sources for this purpose.

(d) The Central Government have provided financial assistance of Rs. 468.64 lakh to the State of Assam under centrally sponsored schemes in last three years for the development of forests.

Timber Mafia in North-East

5057. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to efer to answer to Unstarred Question 1715 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th March, 2000 and state: